



NEWSPAGER

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SPA Surgery at the College Continues to Break New Ground

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Dr. King

Using the new single port access (or SPASM) technique developed at Drexel University College of Medicine, Stephanie A. King, M.D., associate professor and chief of gynecologic oncology, removed a woman's ovaries through a single incision in the patient's belly button, leaving only a hidden scar. The surgery is believed to be the world's first SPA bilateral oophorectomy.

The SPA technique was developed by Paul G. Curcillo II, M.D., vice chairman of surgery and director of robotic and minimally invasive surgery, using high-dexterity RealHand instruments from Novare Surgical Systems (*NewsPager*, June 2007). Curcillo has already completed more than 15 procedures using this technique, including six gallbladder

removals, and several hernia and stomach surgeries. This is the first time the technique has been used for gynecologic surgery.

The patient, a 54-year-old woman, experienced minimal discomfort and has a barely visible scar, compared to traditional laparoscopic oophorectomy, requiring three to four incisions – one in the navel, and two to three others elsewhere on the abdominal wall, which leave obvious scarring.

"To be able to incorporate this new technique and instrumentation into gynecologic surgery is a wonderful benefit to the patient, both in lessening discomfort and hastening recovery, not to mention the hidden scar," says King. "It will decrease the number of incisions required in routine gynecologic laparoscopy, as well as allow us to do more advanced gynecologic procedures using fewer incisions."

Contact: stephanie.king@drexelmed.edu or 215-762-2625, ext. 2

To view video of the SPA procedure, visit www.drexelmed.edu/SPAsurgery. The first SPA surgery training session at DUCOM, to be conducted by Dr. Paul Curcillo in August, is already full. If you are interested in attending a future SPA training course, please contact him at paul.curcillo@drexelmed.edu or 215-762-5577.

Students Give a Helping Hand to Future Iraqi Physicians

On June 21, Drexel University College of Medicine students got together to box up and ship out 350 medical textbooks to Iraqi medical students. The 45 boxes filled with books were sent to future physicians in Kirkuk, Iraq.

The plea for recent medical books came from a DUCOM graduate stationed in Iraq and aiding Kirkuk's two-year-old medical college. Christopher Curtis, M.D., (DUCOM '05) is a surgeon with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. In addition to overseeing the healthcare of 3,000-plus soldiers, Dr. Curtis is the leading official for the Iraqi civilian health system and the United States Army in the region.

Curtis's duties include overseeing the Kirkuk University Medical College, with 175 students in their first and second years of study. This is the first medical university in the area since Saddam Hussein prevented the Kurds or Shia in the region from attending medical school. Currently, these Iraqi students are sharing a limited number of medical texts that date from before the Iraqi embargo of 1991. Their primary medical hospital is the former Saddam Hussein



Student Government Association members packed and shipped medical books to Iraq (l-r): Anand Jain, third-year student; Clarence M. Lee Jr., first-year; Neeta Shah, second-year; Rajeesh Mohan, third-year; Danielle D'Avolio, third-year; Christopher Smith, first-year; Nancy Tang, first-year.

Hospital, now called the Azadi ("liberation" in Kurdish) Hospital.

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Richard V. Homan, M.D.
Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs
Annenberg Dean

Key Appointments, New Career Development Center

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of **Claire A. Tillman, MBA, M.Ed.**, as associate dean for external relations and strategic development. This is a homecoming for Claire, who served the College of Medicine as executive director of business operations earlier in her career. She joins us from Temple University's Tyler School of Art, where

she has been the assistant dean for finance and administration. As the senior administrative officer at Tyler, she worked closely with the dean and was responsible for day-to-day management of financial and administrative functions. Prior to that, she was director of management analysis at Temple.

In her new position, Claire will report directly to me and assume some of the responsibilities formerly held by John Ekarius, who has resigned to take a position at the University of South Florida. John was with us for a productive two years, and we wish him well in his new role.

I am also happy to note that **Mary Moran, M.D.**, has been appointed associate dean for faculty affairs and professional development. Mary, who is an associate professor of pediatrics, has been associate dean for professional development for some time and had been serving as interim associate dean for faculty affairs. Congratulations and thank you, Mary.

We have exciting news on the academic front: the creation of a Career Development Center for students in the College of Medicine. Under the leadership of **Marie Hartman**, who has been named director of career advising, the center will serve both medical students and students in Biomedical Graduate Studies and Pre-professional and Post-baccalaureate Programs. The center will provide group and individual career counseling and assistance, helping students to choose a career path and successfully plan their careers. This will allow Marie to use her 25 years of experience serving students in a new and creative way. **Shay Myers** has succeeded Marie as director of student affairs.

Finally, we have been fortunate to recruit many excellent additions to our faculty in 2007/08. Please look for their names and faces in future issues of the *NewsPager*, and join me in offering a warm welcome to our new colleagues.

Dean's Office: 215-762-3500

In Memoriam: Harold W. "Hal" Pote

Harold W. "Hal" Pote, a trustee of both Drexel University College of Medicine and Drexel University, died June 26 while vacationing in Turkey with his wife, Linda. He was 60 years old.

Pote was chair of the finance committee of the College of Medicine's board of trustees and chair of the enrollment management committee of the University's board. A passionate advocate for Drexel, he was tireless and highly engaged in his stewardship.

"His passing is a loss to our University as well as a great personal loss to each of us," Drexel University President Dr. Constantine Papadakis said. "His contributions to the critical area of enrollment management were immense."

At the time of his death, Pote was president and CEO of American Financial Realty Trust. He was previously vice chairman of retail financial services at JPMorgan Chase & Co. and executive vice president and head of Chase Regional Banking. Pote was

a founding partner of The Beacon Group, which became part of JPMorgan Chase.

Pote was founding president and served on the board of directors of the Spina Bifida Foundation. He also served on the boards of the American Craft Museum, Museum of Arts & Design, New York City Ballet and National Century Financial Enterprises. He was previously a director of Norfolk Southern Corporation and SmithKline Beecham. He had also served on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Intelligence Oversight Board.



Harold W. Pote

College Launches Monthly Medical Podcast – A First in Philadelphia



Drexel University College of Medicine has become the first medical school in the Philadelphia region to launch a monthly medical podcast. The Drexel MedcastSM, available for listening or downloading on www.drexelmed.edu, will feature leading academic physicians and scientists from the College of Medicine faculty, discussing various medical topics. A new topic and faculty member will be selected and featured each month.

Podcasts are similar to radio programs that can be listened to on nearly any computer. The main benefit of podcasting is that the audio content can be downloaded to iPods and other portable media players on demand, so that it can be listened to whenever the user chooses.

The first Drexel Medcast features Paul Curcillo, M.D., vice chair of surgery and director of minimally invasive and robotic surgery, discussing his groundbreaking single port access, SPASM surgery, technique. Curcillo recently became the first surgeon in the world to perform a laparoscopic gallbladder removal through a single incision in a patient's belly button. He has since performed more than a dozen SPA surgeries.

Drexel Medcasts will be hosted by journalist Stasia DeMarco. Among future topics planned are women's health, Alzheimer's disease, and sleep disorders.

Students Give a Helping Hand to Future Iraqi Physicians...continued

In an email to Drexel University College of Medicine, Curtis explained their needs and asked for help: "If alumni, faculty, and students could comb their shelves for unused or little used texts it would mean a great deal to the students and faculty...These student physicians are exposed to incredible situations that will make them excellent doctors."

In response, Anand Jain, a third-year medical student and president of the Student Government Association, organized the book drive. Jain says, "It was a chance for us to stop being medical students, take notice of the world around us, and try to make a difference." American doctors serving in Kirkuk donated \$500 to cover the cost of shipping.

Thus, the initial request turned into a collaborative effort uniting young medical students and professionals across

the seas. "As we were packing the final boxes and unloading them at the post office docks, you could feel the sense that we had done something good," Jain said. "We were proud of ourselves and our colleagues, hopeful for the Iraqi students who would receive these books, and humbled by how small our sacrifice was compared to that of so many others."



Christopher Curtis, M.D., '05, talks with hospital administrators.



Curtis discusses treatment of an Iraqi boy's condition with his mother.



Kirkuk Medical School and Hospital



Signs saying "books for Iraqi med students" were posted above the boxes of books against the student recreational room wall. Overnight the stack grew, with anonymous contributors expanding the already increasing pile.



Dr. Duke



Yasmeen Agosti

Pamela Duke, M.D., assistant professor, Department of Medicine, and **Yasmeen Agosti**, fourth-year medical student, have published *MedMaps for Pathophysiology*

(Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, April 2007). This medical review textbook for course exams and the USMLE Step 1 contains 102 concept maps of disease processes and mechanisms. The book is organized by organ system and includes classic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and congestive heart failure, as well as complex diseases such as lupus and HIV. Each concept map is arranged to visually capture and clarify the relationships between various aspects of each disease, such as biochemical and genetic causes and responses. Laboratory values are included where appropriate. The page layout allows space for students to add comments and notes.



Dr. Katsetos



Dr. Legido



Dr. Baas

Christos D. Katsetos, M.D., Ph.D., research professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; **Agustin Legido, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor, and **Jean-Pierre de Chadarevian, M.D.**, professor, both in the Department of Pediatrics; and **Louise Bertrand, M.S.**, instructor; **Jonathan Nissanov, Ph.D.**, associate professor; and **Peter W. Baas, Ph.D.**, professor, all in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, have co-authored a research article entitled "Class III Beta-tubulin and Gamma-tubulin Are Co-expressed and Form Complexes in Human Glioblastoma Cells," published in the August 2007 issue of *Neurochemical Research*. This study was supported by a grant from the St. Christopher's Foundation for Children given to Dr. Katsetos.

Joel S. Steinberg, M.D., Ph.D., clinical instructor in the Department of Medicine, co-authored a book called *Guillain-Barre Syndrome, from Diagnosis to Recovery* (Demos Medical Publishing of New York, 2007), as part of the American Academy of Neurology Press Quality of Life Guide series.

Conversations About Aging and Women's Health Research



Moderator **Lynn Yeakel** (left), director of the Drexel University College of Medicine Institute for Women's Health and Leadership, and panelists (l-r) **Christine Arenson, M.D.**, Thomas Jefferson University; **Doris Bartuska, M.D., FACP, FACE**, emeritus professor of medicine, DUCOM; and **Barbara Schindler, M.D.**, professor of psychiatry and vice dean, DUCOM, brought a Conversation About Women's Health to the Philadelphia Senior Center on June 20. This edition of the popular community education series focused on health concerns for senior citizens, highlighting what to do about depression, heart disease and other problems of aging. Bartuska, an accomplished tap dancer, punctuated a discussion of the value of exercise by going into a tap routine.

On June 20, a second Conversation panel, at the Philadelphia Union League, addressed the urgency of stepping up women's health research. Leading the question-and-answer session were **Sandra Urdaneta Hartmann, M.D., Ph.D.**, DUCOM; **Carol Tracy, Esq.**, of the Women's Law Project; and **Phoebe Leboy, Ph.D.**, president-elect of the Association of Women in Science.

Contact: 215-255-7373

Women's Health Education Program



Candace Robertson, MPH, research manager, Women's Health Education Program, presented a half-day health education program for fifth to eighth grade girls at the Hamilton Disston School in Philadelphia June 18 during their Crime Prevention Program. The interactive presentation addressed health, health risks and their prevention, essentials for success, and preparing for the future. The Women's Health Education Program strives to educate and inspire young girls to take control of their health and make positive choices.

Contact: 215-991-8450

“3D on a Chip” – A Novel Model for Miniaturized 3D Cell Culture

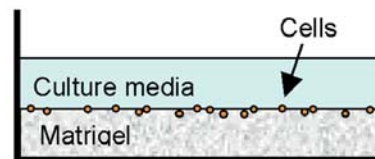
An increasing number of cancer researchers are turning to three dimensional (3D) cell culture systems that allow epithelial cells to organize into structures that resemble their *in vivo* architecture, permitting the study of cancer genes and pathways in a more biologically relevant context. The lab of **Mauricio Reginato, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** (email mreginat@drexelmed.edu), is using 3D culture systems to dissect critical molecular and signaling pathways involved in changes in tissue architecture related to breast cancer progression. A major impediment to rapid progress in finding novel reagents that inhibit tumor phenotypes in 3D is the lack of a viable platform for high-throughput analysis. In current 3D models, cells are randomly distributed and may overlap, so that individual cell analysis is very difficult.

In a unique collaboration, Reginato and **Hongseok (Moses) Noh, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics**, Drexel University, show for the first time the ability to miniaturize 3D epithelial culture into a microfabricated platform where single cells are placed in basement membrane culture that can be used to analyze the effects of drugs or RNAi libraries in a high-throughput fashion. Using soft lithography techniques to create micropatterns for the gel matrix to be used for cell culture, these initial studies show that this type of microfabricated platform can be created and support an exogenous matrix that maintains biologically functional activity, comparable to standard 3D culture techniques, for both normal mammary epithelial cells and also highly invasive breast cancer cells. This miniaturized platform will allow screening of agents that can revert cancer phenotypes in a more biologically relevant context. Although 3D culture has mostly been used by

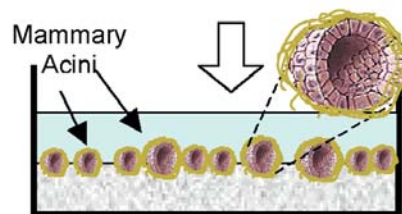
cancer biologists, a number of non-epithelial tissues depend on specific 3D microenvironments as well, including stem cells, neurons, and fat cells. Thus, this novel platform may have applications beyond cancer research.

Temitope R. Sodunke, Keneshia K. Turner, Sarah A. Caldwell, Kevin W. McBride, Mauricio J. Reginato, Ph.D., and Hongseok “Moses” Noh, Ph.D., co-authored the article “Micropatterns of Matrigel for Three-Dimensional Epithelial Cultures,” in *Biomaterials* (in press and available online). Sodunke and Turner are doctoral candidates in the College of Engineering and the College of Medicine, respectively, and Caldwell is a DUCOM research technician. (McBride is at Texas Tech University.)

Conventional 3D culture method

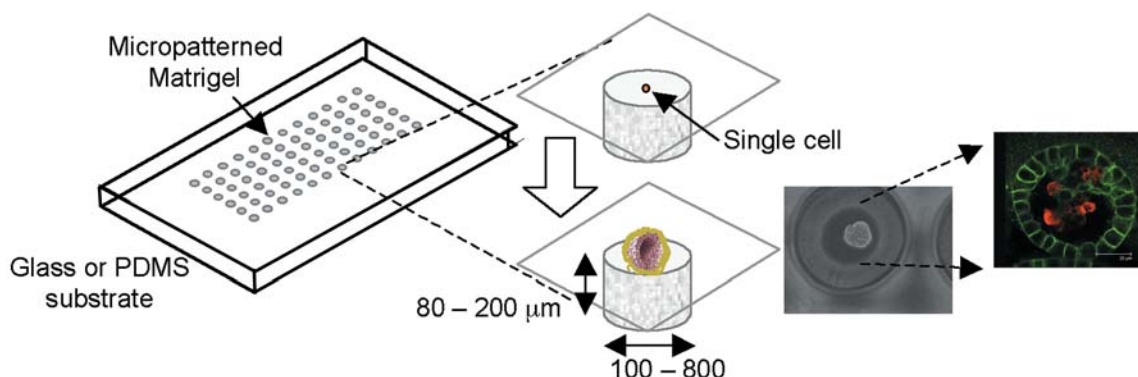


Cell seeding: Random cell distribution in or on a Matrigel* layer



3D Culture: Different growth rate and overlapping acini**

Microfabricated 3D culture platform



- Acini cultured in each gel pattern: controlled cell distribution and growth rate
- Acini overlapping problem is minimized allowing high throughput analysis

* Matrigel is a commercially available hydrogel used as a cell culture medium.

**Mammary epithelial cells form a structure known as an acinus, in which milk is secreted into a central lumen by a single continuous layer of epithelial cells. This architecture can be recreated *in vitro*.

Schematic diagrams compare conventional 3D cell culture system to a microfabricated 3D culture platform. In conventional 3D cultures, cells are randomly distributed within the Matrigel, resulting in overlapping cells that may grow at different rates, thus making individual analysis difficult. In a microfabricated setting, we can achieve an organized array of cells on patterned Matrigel that can be used for cell-based screening of various biological reagents and drugs. (Sodunke et al.)



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In the tradition of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College

'50s

Nancy Lamancusa, M.D., WMC '57, was featured in a *New Castle News* article, "Doctor Recalls Her Years in Medical Profession." The article highlighted her nearly 50-year career in medicine. Lamancusa, retired since 2001, still acts as a "patient advocate" and accompanies former clients to the hospital in the New Castle, Pa., area.

'70s

Arnold Soslow, M.D., HU '70, joined Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, a Tufts University School of Medicine teaching hospital, located in Boston. He also serves as assistant in medicine at Harvard Medical School and assistant professor at University of Massachusetts Medical School. Soslow specializes in workplace health issues and toxicology.

Joseph Reichman, M.D., HU '73, has been named vice president of medical affairs/surgical programs for the Kennedy Health System in Southern New Jersey. Reichman will take a leadership role in expanding Kennedy's surgical programs through recruitment, service development, and technical advancement, and he will be part of the medical administration team. He also serves as first vice president of the Medical Society of New Jersey and as a delegate from New Jersey to the American Medical Association.

Robert A. Fried, M.D., HU '76, joined Allegiance Hospice Group in Lowell, Mass., as senior vice president of palliative care. He also serves as the medical director of its subsidiary, Allegiance Hospice Care of Maine. Fried is certified by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He has also received official recognition from the American Board of Medical Specialties.

'80s

Robert E. O'Connor, M.D., MCP '82, MPH, was appointed chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He is currently director of education and research in the Emergency Medicine Department at Christiana Care Health System in Wilmington, Del., and professor of emergency medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.

Michael J. Demeure, M.D., HU '83, and Resident HU '85, professor at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, Department of Surgery, has been named president-elect of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. Demeure's term begins in April 2008.

Christine M. McCarty, M.D., MCP '84, and Resident MCP '89, chief of cardiac surgery at PinnacleHealth in Harrisburg, Pa., and president of Cardiovascular Surgical Institute, was highlighted in an article, "Women in Health Care, A Change of Heart," in the *BusinessWoman* publication. McCarty discussed how she chose medicine as her career path and her goals and achievements as a cardiologist.

Judson C. Linville, Clinical Psychology, HU '85, was promoted to president and CEO of U.S. consumer operations at American Express Company. In addition to continuing as head of the Consumer Card Services Group, Linville will be responsible for the U.S. Service Delivery Network, the U.S. Consumer Travel Network and the Travelers Cheque and Pre-paid Services Group.

Richard Scott Russell, M.D., MCP '86, an ophthalmologist, joined the medical staff of Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel, N.Y. He is also affiliated with Mahopac Ophthalmology, Mahopac, N.Y.

Eugene Dixon, M.D., FACS, HU '87, joined the medical staff of Lake Regional Health System in Osage Beach, Mo. Dixon is a general urologist and has clinical interest in prostate cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment, urologic cancers, diagnosis and treatment of kidney stones, and evaluation and treatment of urinary incontinence.

Geoffrey Lynn, M.D., HU '87, a cardiac surgeon, will join Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach, Fla., as its lead heart surgeon and director of cardiovascular surgery for its open-heart surgery program, which will open in early 2008. Lynn has been one of three primary heart surgeons at Delray Medical.

Joseph Sivak, M.D., HU '88, joined Northstar Physicians Network, Inc., in its first psychiatric care clinic in Duluth, Minn. Sivak has been in private practice for 15 years, in Seattle, at the Twin Ports VA Outpatient Center in Superior, Wis., and at Range Mental Health in Hibbing, Minn.

'90s



Dr. Brodsky

Bari-Sue Brodsky, M.D., MCP '91, has been appointed medical director of Cambridge Health Alliance's Riverside Health Center, a family medicine practice in Cambridge, Mass. Brodsky holds appointments at Harvard Medical School, Boston University School of Medicine, and Tufts University School of Medicine.

Kristina Kramer, M.D., MCP '96, is a pulmonary/critical care physician in the San Francisco Bay Area, practicing at John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek, Calif., where she is also the medical director of the intensive care unit.

Former Residents

Donald Gill, M.D., Resident HU '67, a retired hematologist, was one of four physicians honored with the 2007 Physicians Recognition Award at Riverview Medical Center (RMC) in Red Bank, N.J. Although Gill is retired, he continues to serve RMC as a physician adviser. He worked at RMC for nearly 40 years, and served as vice chairman for the Department of Medicine and on many committees.



John R. Vender, M.D., Resident HU '96, associate professor and vice chair for clinical activities for the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) Department of Neurosurgery, has been named interim department chair. Vender is also director of surgical oncology and medical director of the Southeast Gamma Knife Center at MCG. He is an expert in open and radiosurgical therapy of brain tumors, including tumors and other structural problems at the base of the skull.

Honorary Degree Recipients

Lori Arviso Alvord, M.D., HD, CoM '06, associate dean for student affairs and multicultural affairs and assistant professor of surgery and psychiatry at Dartmouth Medical School, was appointed to the National Advisory Council for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, a component of the National Institutes of Health.

In Memoriam:

- Carl E. Anderson, M.D., HU '66**
- James J. Arnao, M.D., HU '37**
- S. Charles Bershadsky, M.D., HU '49**
- Dennis J. Bonner, M.D., HU '38**
- Raymond A. Case, Jr., M.D., HU '47**
- Harriet Character, M.D., HU '80**
- Irvin M. Cleveland, M.D., HU '52**
- Jack A. Devor, M.D., HU '66**
- Bernice B. Ennis, M.D., WMC '48**
- Rosamond T. Hathaway, M.D., WMC '53**
- Robert J. Hill, M.D., HU '43**
- Edwin A. Mekanik, M.D., HU '46**
- Sydney G. Salus, M.D., HU '50**
- Elinor H. Sutor, M.D., WMC '45**
- Albert S. Terzian, M.D., HU '45**
- Robert G. Witherspoon, M.D., HU '43**
- C. Thomas Yarrington, Jr., M.D., HU '60**

Martin Swiecicki, Jr., M.D., '60, a retired neurosurgeon, died on July 1 at age 73. After earning a medical degree from Hahnemann University, Swiecicki completed a neurosurgery residency in Philadelphia and then served two years in the United States Air Force. He later joined West Jersey Hospital's Camden, Voorhees and Berlin divisions, where he was chief of neurosurgery from 1967 until 1989. Swiecicki was an associate professor with Hahnemann. He retired in 2003. Swiecicki is survived by Gloria (Whelpley) Swiecicki, his wife of 34 years, his son, Martin, daughters, Diane Fahey, Annette Gransky, Sheryl Quick and Karen Swiecicki, in addition to a brother, three grandchildren and his former wife, Shirley.

MCP Alum Leslie Gruss Prescribes "Family" Medicine

Michael Rosen and Leslie Gruss carefully planned their lives. Both became accomplished professionals. Michael graduated from Penn with dual degrees in anthropology and business and Leslie earned her medical degree at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Class of 1983. After marrying, they selected a neighborhood filled with racial diversity and culture far different from their childhoods, where they would raise their two adopted boys, Ripton and Morgan.

At the age of 7, Ripton was quickly making friends, playing sports and all the things 7-year-old boys like to do, when a group of 12-year-old boys asked him to join their baseball game. Eager to be part of the team, Ripton invited the kids to his penthouse for snacks and drinks after the game. It didn't take long to establish a routine of baseball games followed by cookies, milk and video games at the Rosen-Gruss homestead.

Teammates Will, Kindu, Phillippe, Juan Carlos and Carlos felt as if they had hit the jackpot. None had ever seen such a beautiful home with plenty of food, plenty of space and plenty of love. Drugs, poverty and crime riddled their neighborhoods. Each had come from broken homes, with one or both parents absent, in jail or dead.

Slowly, Michael and Leslie noticed things began shifting in small ways. After-school visits turned into sleepover parties. Video playing time turned into reading hour. And, if someone needed school clothes, Michael would buy them. Together, all seven boys took responsibility for chores; candle lighting during Hanukkah and even arguments became routine for this unique "family."

Eventually, each realized something was happening that would change the Rosen family in ways unplanned, unexpected and forever. What started as a friendly baseball game between neighborhood kids ended with the Rosen family of four transforming into a uniquely blended, close knit family of nine.

Five years later, the "big" boys, now young men, have attended or graduated from college. The Rosen boys are teenagers and look forward to their "brothers" homecomings for important family functions.

Michael and Leslie had carefully planned their lives. What actually happened is not a life that either of them had imagined. There were concerns along the way, but Michael and Leslie believe that helping people is of greater value than anything else. While the boys were never officially adopted, they will always be members of the Rosen family.

This article was based on "The Accidental Family," published in Reader's Digest, June 2007. Adapted with permission. To read the full account, visit www.rd.com and type "Accidental Family" in the search box.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In the tradition of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College

Walter Lomax Jr. Inducted into the Drexel 100



Denis P. Obrien, DU '87, chairman, Drexel 100; Dr. Lomax; President Dr. Constantine Papadakis

their professional accomplishments, public service, and philanthropic activities.

Coincidentally, in 1991, Walter Lomax created the Elizabeth and Walter P. Lomax Sr. Endowed Scholarship, as a tribute to his parents. This scholarship benefits medical students at Drexel University College of Medicine.

In 2003, Lomax and his wife of 49 years, Beverly, extended their philanthropic spirit through the creation of the Lomax Family

Foundation. Their six children are trustees of this foundation, whose purpose is to provide funding for eligible nonprofit organizations and programs that promote art, health, education and culture in the African American community.

On May 5, Walter P. Lomax Jr., M.D., HU '57, was inducted into the illustrious Drexel 100 during Drexel University's celebration of Blue & Gold Days. This distinction is the most prestigious honor the University can bestow upon living alumni.

The Drexel 100 was established in 1991, marking the University's centennial. Alumni selected for membership personify Drexel's heritage of excellence and achievement in their professional accomplishments, public service, and philanthropic activities.

In other public service, Lomax is a former trustee of LaSalle University and trustee emeritus of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He is currently a board member of AmeriChoice, Inc., of Pennsylvania and of Universal Companies.

Lomax began his career as a single practitioner in the same South Philadelphia neighborhood where he lived as a child. He continued this practice for 32 years, growing it from a private physician office to a multisite group practice consisting of over 20 medical professionals – just one of the credentials that earned him the Alumni Association's 2007 Outstanding Entrepreneur Award.

He is also credited with establishing Lomax Health Systems, Inc., a management company concentrating exclusively on healthcare. In 1984, he won a contract to recruit physicians and physician assistants to supplement the City of Philadelphia's staff in the prison system. When he sold the company in October 2000, Lomax Health Systems was providing healthcare in 60 correctional facilities in 16 states.

Today, Lomax is retired as a physician, but he continues to serve as chairman of the Lomax Companies, the Lomax family's investment office, as chairman of its affiliate General Management Associates, and as an example to us all.

All in the Family: Bondi Granddaughter Earns MSN from Drexel

Kimberlee Ann Guevin, the granddaughter of the late Hahnemann professor emeritus Amedeo Bondi, Ph.D., received her Master of Science in Nursing with honors from the Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions Contemporary Faculty Track on June 16. Bondi was the first full-time dean of the graduate school at Hahnemann University and served as chairman of the Department of Microbiology from 1947 to 1983. His daughter Barbara Behnke is Guevin's mother. Guevin is also a niece of Edward Bondi, M.D., HU '74, and John Bondi, M.D., HU '68. Each year, an endowment created

in honor of Amedeo Bondi by family, past students and friends provides awards to graduate students in the College of Medicine: one to a continuing student and one to a graduating Ph.D.



Kimberlee Ann Guevin

Send alumni notes to Patty Comey at pcomey@drexelmed.edu or mail to: College of Medicine Office of Alumni Relations Suite 11489, 1601 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Alumni Relations Office: 215-255-7341
Toll Free: 866-373-9633
Website: www.drexelmed.edu/alumni

Pathway Program Paves the Way for Career Success

When it comes to career planning and preparation, fourth-year Drexel University College of Medicine students have an important edge over their peers at most medical schools nationwide. That edge is the Pathway Program, an innovative system that enables fourth-year students to focus on their career goals with the benefit of strong faculty advising. At the same time, the program ensures that students acquire the broad professional medical knowledge essential to their development as physicians.

Drexel University College of Medicine was one of the first medical schools in the country to introduce such a program, nearly 10 years ago, through its predecessor, MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine.

“The Pathway Program grew out of concern that fourth-year students were taking multiple courses in a given subspecialty at the expense of training in areas that would provide a broad professional foundation,” explains Barbara A. Schindler, M.D., vice dean for educational and academic affairs, and one of the founders of the program. “We want to ensure that our students receive a well-rounded medical education with increased faculty advising to help them plan their fourth-year curriculum and achieve their career goals.”

Fourth-year students choose one of 26 pathways and complete a required subinternship in internal medicine, a course in neurology and one other course required by the particular pathway. In addition, all students complete six elective courses chosen by them from a menu of courses available in a given pathway. To ensure a rich academic experience, students may take a maximum of three electives in any one discipline or specialty except in medicine, where they may take five, and neurology, where they may take four. Over 300 elective courses have been faculty-approved for selection by fourth-year students.

Pathway directors work with the students to develop curricular and career strategies for the residency match process. “We help students develop a realistic set of target programs by reviewing their grades, test scores and competitiveness in the context of the region where they want to apply,” says Shahab Minassian, M.D., director of the Division of Fertility and Reproductive Endocrinology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology Pathway director. “We are readily available to the students for advising throughout the year.”

“Preparing for the residency match is very stressful,” observes Amy Chernoff Fuchs, M.D., associate vice chair for student education, Department of Medicine, and Medicine Pathway director. “I enjoy helping to put the students more at ease, and it’s clear that they value getting advice from people who have been through the process and know firsthand how to plan their courses and prepare successfully.”

Fuchs, who directs the largest pathway, with 45 students, notes that students also appreciate extra touches such as the personal phone calls she makes to the students’ first-choice residency programs.



Pathways are designed to further a well-rounded medical education as well as career goals. Amy Chernoff Fuchs, M.D., discusses electives with student Elizabeth Juhas.

Student feedback in the annual end-of-year Pathway survey reflects the success of the program. “More than three-quarters of the fourth-year students said that they received useful advice regarding career choices from their Pathway advisers and believed that the Pathway system was highly effective in helping them attain their educational objectives,” reports Burton Landau, Ph.D., associate dean for medical education.

Notes Minassian, “During the residency interview process, our students meet their peers from other medical schools all over the country. Those students can’t believe the extent of advising that our students receive.

“Our students also gain advantages because of the Pathway Program’s reputation,” he adds. “We routinely match students into highly competitive residency programs because those programs know and respect the level of support we give our students and they trust us.”

With an eye to continuous improvement, Fuchs plans to initiate a postgraduate feedback program for the Medicine Pathway. “I want to know how our graduates like their residency programs,” she says. “That information will help me to better advise my current and future students.”

Pathways

- Anesthesiology
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- General Professional Education
- “Generalist” Medicine
- Medicine
- MD/MPH
- MD/MBA
- MD/PhD
- Neurology
- Obstetrics
- Ophthalmology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
- Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Plastic Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Radiation Oncology
- Radiology
- Research
- General Surgery
- Women’s Health

Grants & Kudos



Dr. Artlett

Carol M. Artlett, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was awarded a four-year grant by the Department of Defense entitled “Modulation of Fibrosis in Scleroderma by 3-Deoxyglucosone” to study the signaling effects of advanced glycation end products on fibroblasts. The goal is to identify an effective therapy to decrease extracellular matrix expression in these patients.



Dr. Katsetos

Christos D. Katsetos, M.D., Ph.D., research professor of pediatrics and pathology, has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology* for a three-year term (2007-2010). JNEN is the official publication of the American Association of Neuropathologists.

Six Drexel University College of Medicine residents have been selected by the Class of 2008 to receive the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Award for Humanism and Excellence in Teaching, “based on their demonstrated commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients and families, students and colleagues.” The honorees are:

Carmelo DiSalvo, M.D.

Warminster Family Practice – Family Medicine

Trina Fernandes, M.D.

Hahnemann University Hospital – Medicine

Nataliya Koliasko, M.D.

Friends Hospital – Psychiatry

Greta Piper, M.D.

Allegheny General Hospital – Surgery

Gabor Mezei, M.D.

Saint Peter’s University Hospital – Ob/Gyn

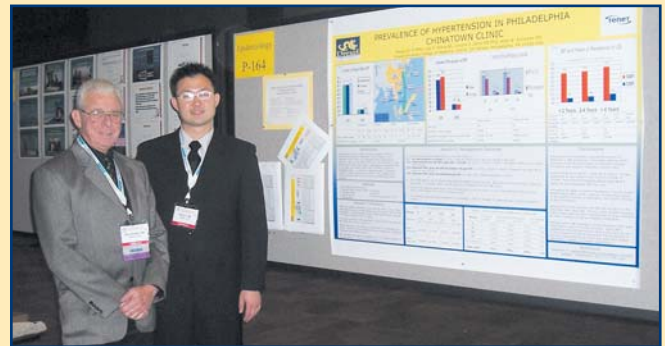
Jennifer Vodzak, M.D.

St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children – Pediatrics

Seung Jin Yi, a third-year medical student, won an American Society of Hypertension (ASH) Young Investigator Travel Award to facilitate his attendance at the society’s annual scientific meeting in May. His abstract “Prevalence of High Blood Pressure in Philadelphia Chinatown Clinic” had been accepted for poster presentation at the meeting and for publication in the *Journal of the American Society of Hypertension*. He also won the Delaware Valley Chapter of ASH Young Investigator Award.

Lisa K. Wong, a third-year medical student, **Vincent Zarro, M.D.**, associate professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, and medical director of the Chinatown Clinic, and **Allan B. Schwartz, M.D.**, professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, are co-authors of the research and poster. Schwartz is president of the American Society of Hypertension, Delaware Valley Chapter.

The Chinatown Clinic is a project of Drexel University College of Medicine. Please contact Vincent J. Zarro, M.D., for more information at **215-991-8515** or **vzarro@drexelmed.edu**.



Professor Allan B. Schwartz, M.D., assisted third-year medical student **Seung Jin Yi** in research presented at the American Society of Hypertension annual scientific meeting.

Faculty Introductions



Dr. Katsev

Svetlana Katsev, M.D., joined the College of Medicine as an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, in January. Katsev earned her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh College of Medicine and completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. After her first cardiology fellowship, at New York University, she completed a second cardiology fellowship at the University of California, San Diego.

Prior to joining the College of Medicine, Katsev held multiple positions as a research assistant at the Fox Chase Cancer Institute, Haverford College, and the Family Planning Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania. She has presented work on bone protein signaling at the American Heart Association annual meeting and presented a study on unique complications with common procedures during the Society of General Internal Medicine 2003 annual meeting in British Columbia.

Contact: 215-762-2514

Twin Honors Bestowed Upon Dr. Robert J. Schwartzman



Dr. Schwartzman accepting his AAN Teacher Recognition Certificate

Robert J. Schwartzman, M.D., professor and chair of neurology, has been chosen to receive the 2007 Richard S. Weiner Pain Education Award from the American Academy of Pain Management. He will receive the

award on September 29 at the academy's 18th annual clinical meeting in Las Vegas. Schwartzman is being honored for his more than 30 years of research and treatment of patients suffering from complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS), and his contributions to the advancement of interdisciplinary pain management.

Prior to receiving his award, Schwartzman will give the keynote speech: "Mechanisms and New Treatment of CRPS." The pain management group has 6,000 members and is the largest interdisciplinary pain organization in the United States.

On April 30, Schwartzman received a 2007 Teacher Recognition Certificate during the 59th annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology. The award was presented by the AAN and the A.B. Baker Section on Neurologic Education.

Honors From Philadelphia County Medical Society

Shailendra S. Vaidya, M.D., a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, who completed his residency at Medical College of Pennsylvania, was inaugurated as the 146th president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society on June 15 at the PCMS President's Ball and Awards Night. Joyann Kroser, M.D., MCP '90, is the immediate past president.



Wilbur Oaks, M.D., HU '55, received the PCMS Practitioner of the Year Award: (l-r) Drs. Jacob Wiener, Oaks, Herbert Kean, HU '56, and Shailendra Vaidya.

In further kudos for our College family, Wilbur W. Oaks, M.D., HU '55, professor of medicine and a former chair of the Department of Medicine was honored with the 2007 Practitioner of the Year Award. Also recognized at the event, Hahnemann '57 alumni Drs. Walter P. Lomax and Robert J. Wolfson were among those who received a 50-Year Award.



Dr. Sutnick

The 2006 Strittmatter Award, presented annually to the Philadelphia physician who has made the most valuable contribution to the healing arts, was presented to Alton I. Sutnick, M.D., a distinguished medical educator, scientist and physician who was the dean of the Medical College of Pennsylvania from 1975 to 1989, as well as vice president from 1976. He was also a professor of medicine at MCP. Sutnick most recently served as a director of International Medical Education for Carelift International.

Compliance Corner

Monitoring the Transition to an Electronic Medical Record



Edward G. Longazel
Chief Compliance
& Privacy Officer

Our clinical departments are busy this year transitioning to an electronic medical record. The first step in the transition is training clinicians and clinical office staff in the use of the software. Physician use of the software is then phased in by clinical area, with each physician using the electronic medical record for a portion of his/her patient schedule each day. Concurrent monitoring of documentation is provided by the Corporate Compliance Office coding staff for 100 percent of the electronic medical record volume during the implementation phase. The medical record software sends the charge proposed by the clinician to the compliance analyst for review before it is submitted for payment. The compliance analyst reviews the electronic patient record and compares the proposed charge to the documentation on file. The analyst may then electronically pass an accurate charge to the billing operations queue for submission or send the encounter record and proposed charge back to the clinician and software implementation team for consideration and correction.

The concurrent review process provides immediate feedback to the clinician and staff as well as the implementation team. Concurrent review not only ensures accurate and timely charge selection but it also enables the clinical department and implementation team to quickly triage operational and clinical information-flow issues for remediation through redesign or individualized education to improve the clinical documentation.

**Confidential Hotlines: call toll-free 866-936-1010; or visit www.drexelmed.edu/ComplianceHotline.
Compliance or privacy training requests: 215-255-7819.**

Suite 11484, 1601 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Bulletins:

Hahnemann Excels at Heart-Related Care

Hahnemann University Hospital ranks in the top 1 percent of U.S. hospitals in heart-related care, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2007 hospital rankings. The annual "America's Best Hospitals" report identifies "facilities that excel at treating a variety of demanding illnesses and procedures within a specialty." Out of 5,362 hospitals evaluated, only 173 met that standard in one or more specialties and, of those, Hahnemann University Hospital ranked 49th in heart-related treatment and procedures. Only two other hospitals in southeastern Pennsylvania ranked in the top 50 – one is the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the other is College of Medicine affiliate Lehigh Valley Hospital.

Walk and Antique Car Show for RSD Research

Held each fall in Scranton, Pa., this year on Sunday, September 30, "Walk 2 Miles in My Shoes for R.S.D." is a multifaceted event that raises money for research into reflex sympathetic dystrophy, or chronic regional pain syndrome. Funds go to further research conducted by neurology professor and chair Robert Schwartzman, M.D. Last year's event drew 500 walkers for either the 2-mile walk or a shorter version. The antique and custom car show drew 72 entries. Registration for walkers (\$10 donation; \$50 donors receive a free T-shirt) begins at noon, and the walk starts at 1 p.m. sharp. The day also includes a Chinese auction and a lottery. It all takes place at McDade Park, off Keyser Avenue in Scranton. For more information or sponsor sheets, please call founder-chairperson JoAnn Spalnick at **570-876-4034**.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

A recent article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that in the 50 largest metropolitan areas, an average of 27 percent of those 16 and older do some form of volunteer work. And Philadelphia is average ("Lending a Hand," July 9). There are several organizations that can help caring citizens of all ages find volunteer opportunities. Greater Philadelphia Cares (www.philacares.com) is a good resource for both those wanting to volunteer and those needing volunteers. For teens, pediatrician Dan Taylor recommends www.dosomething.org, which offers volunteer activities by zip code, and a link to www.dosomething.org/oldpeople, "the site for old people who want to help young people do something."

Calendar:

August	<i>National Immunization Awareness Month</i>
Aug 6	White Coat Ceremony
Aug 8	Classes begin
September	<i>Prostate and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month</i> <i>National Sickle Cell Month</i>
Sep 9-11	Women's Health Is the Community's Health: Impacting Women's Lives in Urban Places Drexel University College of Medicine Institute for Women's Health & Leadership Contact: 215-255-7373
Sep 21	<i>World Alzheimer's Day</i>
Sep 26	<i>National Mesothelioma Awareness Day</i>
Sep 28-29	Gender and Ethnic Medicine Seminar Series Drexel University College of Medicine Institute for Women's Health & Leadership Contact: 215-255-7373
Sep 30	Walk 2 Miles in My Shoes for RSD See Bulletins
October	<i>National Breast Cancer Awareness Month</i> <i>National Celiac Disease Awareness Month</i>
Oct 3	Discovery 2007 www.drexelmed.edu/discoveryday Contact: Angelo Milone, 215-991-8403 or amilone@drexelmed.edu
November	<i>American Diabetes Month</i>
December	
Dec 1	<i>World AIDS Day</i>
Dec 1-7	<i>National Handwashing Awareness Week</i>
Dec 6	Marion Spencer Fay Award Contact: 215-255-7373
January	
Jan 10	Dr. Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin Sex and Gender Research Forum Contact: 215-255-7373
February	
March	
Mar 29	Black Tie White Coat Ball